REMARKS

Claims 1 - 11 are presently pending. In the above-identified Office Action, Claims 7 – 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. Claims 1 – 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 7 – 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Herz ('195). Claims 1 – 6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz in view of Lefkowitz (U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0037250).

By this Paper, Applicant has made a minor amendment to the Specification and amended Claims 1 and 7 to address the technical objections thereto under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and 35 U.S.C. § 101 respectively. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject Application properly presents claims patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are requested.

The subject Application addresses the need in the art for a system or method for customizing search results based on the source of a search request. The inventive system routes the request to an appropriate database based on the source of the request. The invention is set forth in Claims of varying scope of which Claim 7 is illustrative. Claim 7 recites:

> 7. A selective information retrieval system disposed at least in part in a computer system, said information retrieval system comprising:
>
> first means for receiving a first information retrieval request from a first source;
>
> second means for retrieving a second information retrieval request from a second source; and
>
> **third means for retrieving information from a first database for said first source in response to said first request and for retrieving information from a second database for said second source in response to said second request.** (Emphasis added.)

None of the references, taken alone or in combination, teach, disclose or suggest the invention as presently claimed. That is, none of the references teach, disclose or suggest a system or method for detecting the source of an information request and for routing the request to a database based on the source detected.

In the above-identified Office Action, cited Herz and suggested that this reference anticipates the invention of Claims 7 – 10. Herz purports to teach a system for customized electronic identification of data objects. The Examiner suggests that Herz may not clearly anticipate Claim 7, but that to the extent that Herz does not clearly anticipate Claim 7, Herz refers to multiple users of the system who search for target information from multiple sources. The Examiner implies that this is tantamount to teaching an automatic routing of search requests based on the source thereof. However, this implication is tenuous.

First, Herz teaches analyzing data, comparing the data to user profiles, and generating a rank ordered listing of target objects most likely to be of interest to a user in accordance with the user's profiles. However, those skilled in the art will appreciate that an analysis of data and synthesis of a list is not equivalent to a selection of a database from which to respond to a search request based on a source of the request.

Secondly, a search for target information from multiple sources is also, not tantamount to an automatic routing of search requests based on the source thereof. Accordingly, this basis of rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.
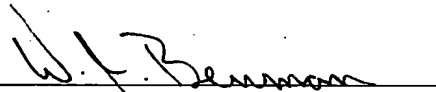
Claim 7 is drawn to an information retrieval system. Using means plus function language, this claim is clearly drawn to statutory subject matter. Nonetheless, the preamble of Claim 7 has been amended to further highlight the fact that the claim is directed to statutory subject matter. Claims 7 – 10 should be allowable.

As to Claim 8 the Examiner has not identified what attribute is taught by Herz relative to the language of Claim 8. Further, the Examiner has not identified an attribute of Herz that is independent of the search request that is used to route the request to an appropriate database as presently claimed. Accordingly, Claims 8 – 11 should be allowable as well.

Finally, inasmuch as limitations similar to those presented in Claims 7 and 8 are embodied in Claim 1, Claims 1 – 6 should be allowable. Thus Claims 1 – 11 should be allowable. Reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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